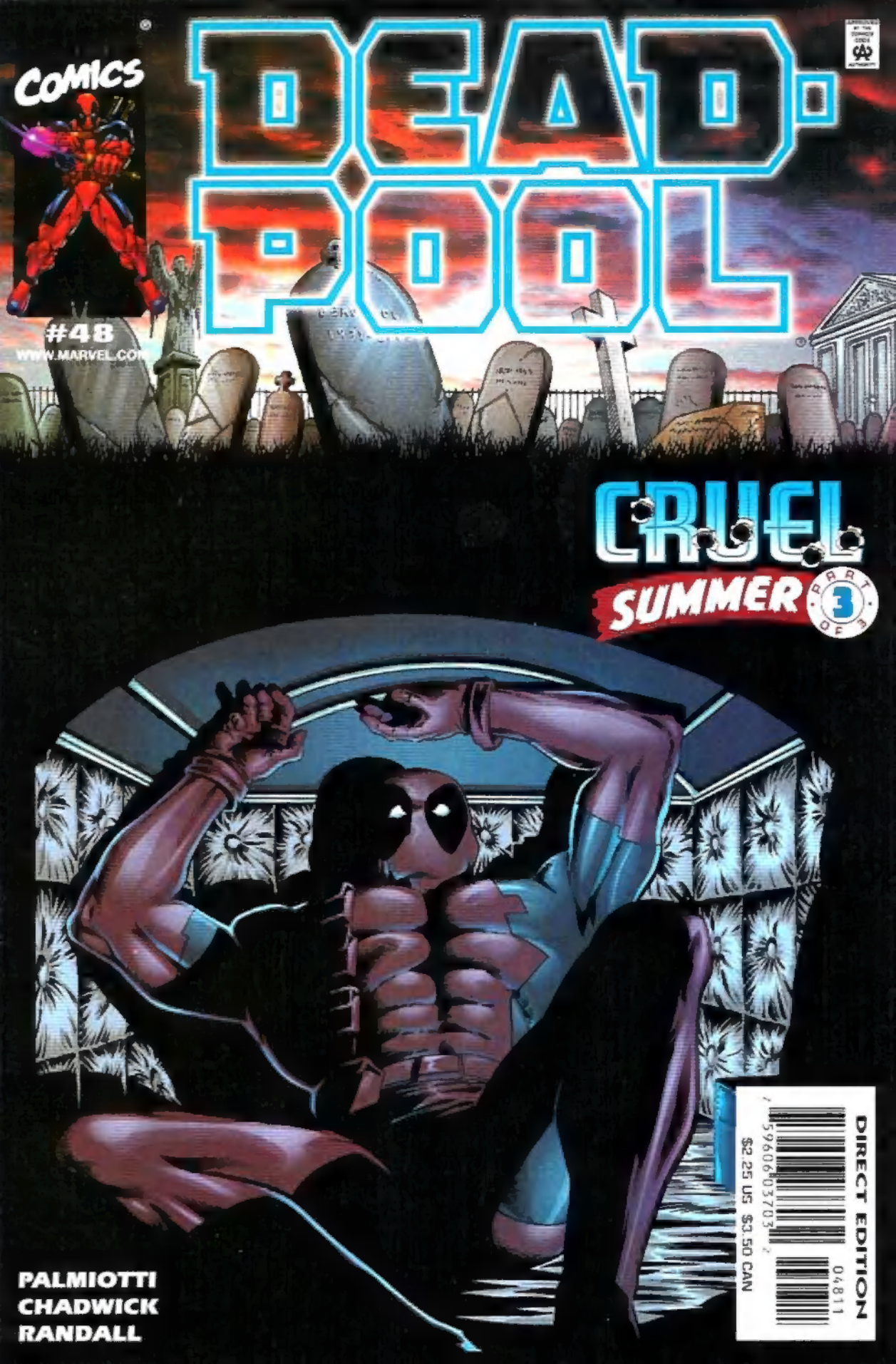
COMICS
DEAD POOL
#48
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CRUEL
SUMMER
PART 3 OF 3
PALMIOTTI
CHADWICK
RANDALL
DIRECT EDITION
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SHROUDED IN STOLEN IDENTITIES AND CLANDESTINE SECRETS, THE MERC-WITH-A-MOUTH IS A MAN OF MYSTERY. HERO? VILLAIN? SOCIOPATH? DEADPOOL MAKES HIS OWN RULES AND PLAYS BY NOBODY'S GAME. HE IS AN AGENT OF CHAOS CONFINED TO A WORLD OF CONSTRICTING ORDER! STAN LEE PRESENTS:
DEADPOOL
CRUEL SUMMER
PART THREE
JIMMY PALMIOTTI
WRITER
PAUL CHADWICK
PENCILER
RON RANDALL
INKER
SHANNON BLANCHARD
COLORIST
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
LETTERER
MIKE RAICHT
ASS'T EDITOR
MIKE MARTS
EDITOR
JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF
FIRST THING I SEE IS BRIGHT LIGHTS. THEN COMES A FLOOD OF IMAGES.
I FIXATE ON ONE IN PARTICULAR.
ANNA...

DEADPOOL® Vol. 1, No. 46, January 2000. ... PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. ... POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO DEADPOOL ... MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP. SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 1976 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1976. TELEPHONE 1 (203) 743-6331. FAX 1 (203) 744-9844. Printed in the U.S.A.

HER VOICE SOUNDS LIKE IT'S A HUNDRED MILES AWAY...
DEADPOOL...
...JOHNNY...
SUDDENLY HER WHISPER TURNS TO A SCREAM.
...COME TO ME!
THE COPPERY SMELL OF BLOOD OVERWHELMS ME.
PROBLEM IS, IT'S NOT HER BLOOD.
IT'S MINE... DREAM'S OVER, DUDE.
I OPEN MY EYES...
... AND THIS IS ALL I SEE.

ELT PARKWAY. BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I'M ON THE RUN WITH FRED THE COP!
WELL, ANNA, I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL IT RUNNING. I'M JUST GLAD THAT DEADPOOL TOOK CARE OF THINGS FOR US.
AND WE TOOK CARE OF HIM. I FEEL KIND OF BAD ABOUT THAT, BUT I'M SURE THE $1 MILLION FROM YOUR WIFE'S LIFE INSURANCE WILL MAKE US FEEL A WHOLE LOT BETTER.
ANNA, ABOUT THE MIL... WE GOT A SMALL PROBLEM.
THERE WAS A CLAUSE IN MY WIFE'S POLICY THAT I WAS UNAWARE OF. AND BECAUSE OF IT, WE ONLY COLLECT $200,000.
STILL, PLENTY TO LIVE ON, I'D SAY.
SORRY, SWEETHEART.
I'M SORRY, TOO.

YOU MUST THINK I'M A COMPLETE IDIOT! DON'T YOU THINK I ALREADY CHECKED THAT OUT ?
YOU GOT THE FULL MILLION. I KNOW IT... AND YOU KNOW IT.
TURN THE CAR AROUND OR I'LL BLOW YOUR PATHETIC LITTLE BRAINS OUT.
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT POSSESSED NICKY... BUT SHE HAD TO BE AN IDIOT TO THINK I WASN'T PACKING MY OWN HEAT.
LISTEN, BUSTA, BAG THIS TRASH AND GET RID OF IT. I GUESS HER PARTNER IN CRIME RAN OFF.
SEE LAST ISSUE FOR NICKY'S UNFORTUNATE DEMISE--MIKE
YOU SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE GOING ON AT THE TATTOO PARLOR LATELY?
ACTUALLY, YEAH, VINNIE. ANNA'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE, AND THERE'S THIS DUDE JOHNNY WHO'S BEEN COMING IN FOR A LOT OF WORK.
I THOUGHT SOMETHING MIGHT BE GOING ON WITH THOSE TWO, SO I HAD THEM FOLLOWED.
LET ME GIVE A CALL. MY FRIEND SANDEE'S ALL OVER IT.

MUSTN'T PANIC. I COULD BE ANYWHERE.
LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN USE HERE.
I GOT IT!
ALWAYS ROOM FOR A BIC IN A SUPER HERO'S SUIT.
CLICK CLICK CLICK
SUCCESS.
FWOOSH!
OH. THIS IS NOT GOOD.
NICE COLOR, THOUGH.

ALL RIGHT, GOT TO REMAIN CALM. LAST I REMEMBER, I WAS ASKING FRED FOR THE REST OF MY PAYMENT... FOR OFFING THE BAD GUYS.
NEXT THING I KNOW THE CONCORDE LANDED ON MY HEAD.
FUNNY... THOUGHT I SMELLED ANNA'S PERFUME RIGHT BEFORE CONKING OUT.
HMM... NAH.
OOPS! THIS IS NO HELP... THANK GOD THIS SUIT IS FIREPROOF!
WRONG SUIT!
AHHHHHHH!

JOHNNY...
ANNA... HELP ME.
RELAX. I GOT YOU.
FRED...

... I WAS TALKING TO FRED WHEN I GOT CLOCKED FROM BEHIND... BUT I SMELLED YOU.
ANNA... TELL ME...
IT WAS ME.

YEAH, BUSTA, THIS IS SANDEE... YOUR GIRL'S BEEN VERY BUSY.
HER AND SOME SQUARE-LOOKING DUDE BURIED A SUPER HERO... HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHICH ONE? FOR ALL I KNOW IT'S AQUABOY...
...ANYWAYS, THEY TOOK A DRIVE AND CAME BACK. FUNNY THING IS SHE DIGS HIM UP AGAIN... YEAH, I'M IN RED HOOK, CORNER OF FIRST AND CHANNEL.
BUSTA, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?
DEAD. THEY'RE ALL GOING TO BE DEAD.
DEAD.
DEAD.
DEAD.
NOW SANDEE, DON'T BE ASKING STUPID QUESTIONS... JUST BE CAREFUL, GIRL.
HANG BACK AND OBSERVE UNTIL I GET THERE.
WHICH SHOULD BE ANY MINUTE NOW.

SORRY ABOUT THAT, JOHNNY.
BUT I THOUGHT WE...
... WE HAD...
HANG ON A SECOND AND LET ME EXPLAIN.
IT'S NOT AS CLEAR CUT AS YOU MIGHT THINK.
THOSE MEN YOU KILLED, THEY WERE ALL BAD MEN. YOU KNEW THAT. THAT'S WHY YOU TOOK THE JOB.
BUT FRED HAD A PLAN TO COLLECT ON HIS WIFE'S LIFE INSURANCE POLICY. WE WERE GOING TO TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN AWAY TO SOUTH AMERICA. PROBLEM IS I'M KEPT PROPERTY OF THE MOB.
HE CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF HIRING YOU TO OFF THE COMPETITION AND MAKE A CLEAN BREAK WITH ME... WITHOUT ANYONE ON OUR BACKS.
THE ONLY COMPLICATION WAS YOU. NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS DID I FIGURE ON CARING ABOUT YOU.
AND YOU SHOW ME THIS HOW? BY PLAYING WHACK-THE-MOLE WITH MY HEAD?
HE WANTED YOU DEAD. I DIDN'T.
YOU USED ME.

HE USED US BOTH TO GET WHAT HE WANTED. WE WERE GOING TO LEAVE YOU ON THE GROUND... BUT IT WAS HIS [redacted] TO [redacted] YOU.
YOU LYING WITCH!
DON'T LISTEN TO HER BULL! ALL THOSE GUYS YOU KILLED [redacted] HER BOYFRIENDS! SHE EVEN KILLED MY WIFE! SHE'S EVIL!
IS THAT FRED?
YEAH. I TIED HIM UP AFTER I MADE HIM TURN AROUND.
JOHNNY, HE WAS GOING TO LEAVE YOU IN THE GROUND TO DIE.
I DON'T FEEL TOO WE...
NOW, NOW, FRED... NOBODY ASKED FOR YOUR OPINION.
DEADPOOL, YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME! IT WAS ALL HER IDEA!
THINK ABOUT IT!

THINK ABOUT THIS, FRED.
BLAM!
OH MY GOD, SHE KILLED HIM IN COLD BLOOD.
HUH?
DIDN'T NOTICE THAT CAR...
SHE SEES ME...
YOU, STEP OUT OF THE CAR, NOW.

I KNOW YOU... YOU'RE BUSTA'S FRIEND SANDEE.
HAND ME THAT CELL PHONE. NOW.
DON'T SHOOT.
BUSTA HERE. WHO'S --
CLICK
LET'S SEE... JUST HIT REDIAL... THEN...
Ah.
WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM?
TELL ME AND I'LL LET YOU LIVE.

I-I WAS TOLD TO FOLLOW YOU... AND-- AND I JUST TOLD HIM WHERE YOU ARE...
GREAT. JUST WHAT I NEED... MORE LOOSE ENDS.
UGGGH...
ANNA... LISTEN TO ME.
DON'T...
SORRY, LOVE. NOTHING PERSONAL.
BLAM!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND BY NOW? I'M DOING THIS FOR US.
I'M CONFUSED.

THEN I'LL START AT THE BEGINNING. I MET [redacted] AT THE TATTOO PARLOR WHILE HE WAS OFF DUTY. WE [redacted] FRIENDS AND I CONFIDED IN HIM ABOUT THE POSITION I WAS STUCK IN.
THESE GUYS WERE KILLERS... [redacted] I [redacted] RIGHT IN THE [redacted] OF THE STORM. EACH DAY I GOT DRAWN DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THEIR WORLD.
COME ON, JOHNNY. DON'T PLAY STUPID. [redacted] YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T TRUST PEOPLE JUST BY THE UNIFORM THEY WEAR.
EVERYTHING [redacted] OUT OF CONTROL [redacted] FRED WAS MY TICKET OUT OF THERE. IF I TRIED TO LEAVE WITH ALL THE INFORMATION I KNEW, I WOULDN'T MAKE IT TO NEW JERSEY ALIVE.
WHY DIDN'T FRED JUST CALL HIS POLICE BUDDIES IN?
CORRUPT COPS?
HALF THE POLICE FORCE IS ON THE TAKE.
THEN WHY THE SHOVEL-IN-THE-HEAD AND COFFIN ROUTINE?
I NEEDED TO CONVINCE FRED WE WERE A TEAM... THEN GET THE MONEY AND COME BACK TO DIG YOU OUT.

SHE KEEPS TALKING AS I ZONE IN AND OUT... I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT. MY FACE AND BODY ARE ON FIRE AND I'M NOT THINKING STRAIGHT. CAN HARDLY FEEL MY HEALING FACTOR AT WORK.
I HAD IT ALL PLANNED. I WAS GOING TO SAVE HER. IDIOT!
BUT I ASK. ANYWAY.
SO WHY HAVE ME DO IT?
WHO ELSE? YOU KIL... YOU KILL FOR HIRE.
WE'RE JUST REGULAR PEOPLE WITH REGULAR PROBLEMS... YOU'RE A SUPER HERO. YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND...
BUT YOU KILLED FRED'S WIFE.
I'LL COME CLEAN WITH YOU. FRED WANTED HIS WIFE DEAD. IT WAS A TWO-FOR-ONE DEAL. SHE DIES AND WE GET THE MILLION DOLLARS IN LIFE INSURANCE.
IF IT WASN'T ME. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMEONE ELSE. EITHER WAY IT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.
THAT WAS YOU AT THE FUNERAL... UNDER THE UMBRELLA COMFORTING FRED.
I FELT BAD ABOUT WHAT I DID TO HER. THERE ISN'T A MINUTE THAT GOES BY THAT I WISH I DIDN'T --
WHAT? YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU?!
SEE LAST ISSUE --MIKE

NO. I EXPECT YOU TO RUN AWAY WITH ME.

BUSTA, THERE THEY ARE! WHY'D WE STOP HERE?
CUZ IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM.
IT IS NOW!
DRIVE!
KER-KRASH!
VINNY.

KATHOOM!
KATHOOM!
KATHOOM!
OH CRAP
AHHH!

VA-BOOM!
ANNA, I'M TOO WEAK. BUSTA MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE. HELP HIM.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO... I WIL.
QUICKLY... THE GAS TANK.
SORRY, ANNA... DIDN'T MEAN FOR IT TO GO DOWN LIKE THIS.
SHHH... REST.

SO THIS [redacted] HOW IT [redacted]... I [redacted] CARE OF YOU! SET YOU UP IN A BUSINESS AND PROVIDE YOU WITH EVERYTHING YOU NEED.
YOU WENCH!
VINNY
DON'T "VINNY" ME. IT'S VINCENT CALABRESSE TO YOU.
YOU PLAYED ME... SO NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO PLAY DEAD.
FA-KOOM!
WHOA!
BLAM!
CAN'T SAY I'VE SEEN THAT BEFORE.
HOW'S BUSTA DOING?
DOING BETTER THAN YOU. HE PASSED OUT.
LUCKY HIM.
CAN BARELY STAND... THIS IS IT. ANNA, IT'S GOT TO STOP HERE.

STOP?
IT'S JUST BEGINNING FOR US ... COME ON, JOHNNY, THERE'S A MILLION DOLLARS IN THE TRUNK. WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE CLEAN.
CLEAN? WE'RE LEAVING BEHIND A BOATLOAD OF BODIES.
CORRECTION-- BAD GUYS.
FRED'S WIFE ...
CASUALTY OF WAR. I REGRET THAT.
THE GIRL YOU JUST KILLED. WHAT'S HER NAME ...
SANDEE, DRUG DEALER.
ANNA...
LOOK, WE'RE BOTH BAD GUYS IN SOMEONE'S EYES, RIGHT?
THE FACT IS THAT WE BELONG TOGETHER. YOU KNOW IT.
I KNOW I CAN'T TRUST YOU.
TRUST ME?
I TRUST YOU.
I UNDERSTAND YOU.
TAKE IT, TAKE THE GUN.
IF YOU THINK WHAT WE HAD WASN'T REAL, USE IT.
I KNOW WHAT I FELT WAS REAL. WE ARE SO MUCH ALIKE. WE BELONG TOGETHER.
YOU WON'T SHOOT ME. I KNOW YOU.

YOU DON'T KNOW ME AT ALL.
CLICK
THE END

DEADLINES

MIKE RAICHT ASSISTANT EDITOR

MIKE MARTS EDITOR

JOE QUESADA CHIEF

So it looks like DEADPOOL #45 — Jimmy Palmiotti's first issue as new DEADPOOL writer — is a success! Letters started pouring in the first day the issue hit the stands, and they haven't stopped since! While there have been a few naysayers along the way (there's just no accounting for taste sometimes!), most people love what Jimmy, Paul, Ron and the rest of the gang brought to the table with the "Cruel Summer" storyline. So, without further ado, our letters page this month will focus on the end of Priest's run and the beginning of Jimmy's. The torch has been passed ...

Dear Mike,

Jimmy Palmiotti on DEADPOOL? Awesome! Even if it's just for three issues!

Scot W. Myers
Charleston, SC

Jimmy's going to be around longer than three issues, Scott! How does *forever* sound to you? Well, maybe not forever, but we have got Jimmy on board for at least the foreseeable future ... unless he decides to kill Deadpool off in the next issue! (Which he hasn't, but even we have only a fuzzy idea of what Jimmy has mapped out from month to month ... so be warned!) What Jimmy does have planned, however, is some serious *pain* for everybody's favorite Merc-with-a-Mouth ... but don't tell Jimmy we told you so, or we might be next! (Jimmy tends to get a little angry sometimes.)

Plus, we have DEADPOOL's big 5-0 celebration in two months (for you slowpokes out there "5-0" means "fifty"). Who would've thunk it? Deadpool won't be celebrating his 50th issue alone, though! He'll be sharing his warehouse with a brand new sidekick! WHAT!? We kid you not ...

Dear Deadpool,

I have been a fan of yours for a long time and I have seen you appear more and more in other Marvel Comics doing your famous merc-for-hire gig. My question is this: do you get any fringe benefits for these extra appearances? Do those so-called super heroes ask for *your* help because you are number one on the comic shelves ... or do they pay you back by appearing in your great book, (the aptly named) DEADPOOL?

Ben Hagerman
lzyss1@hotmail.com

C'mon, Ben, that's an easy one ... from time to time, Deadpool appears in other people's books as a courtesy to those characters, basically because he's so cool. But don't take our word for it, let's listen to what Deadpool himself has to say on the matter.

"Ben ... those other heroes are too scared to show up in my book ... they might not make it out alive! Not that I'd hurt them or anything ... *at least not a lot*. And I am cool. Maybe the coolest." DP

There ya have it, Ben. Right from the mouth of Deadpool.

Dear guys at DEADPOOL,

I just want to congratulate you on an astonishing comic book that keeps me hooked month after month! I mean, I absolutely love how Wade's home life is so funny. The whole comic book is hilarious, but sometimes it takes a serious note, which I also like a lot.

I also like how you've blended the dark and shadowy side of being a merc-for-hire with a good dose of blind stupidity and comedy.

Anyway, let me wrap things up by saying that you have a fantastic magazine once again, and I want you to keep producing this high standard of comic book. So keep it coming, guys! And, by the way, always remember, "There is a man with a typewriter ... "

So, until the day Deadpool has a memory flashback, learns his whole life story and writes a little musical about it, Make Mine Marvel!

Mike
cunnigha@gofree.indigo.ie

We always love a good musical, Mike (and so does Deadpool), but I doubt you'll be seeing anything like *that* in these pages anytime soon (Jimmy hates musicals!). But if you're looking for a top-notch kick-butt comic book, you've come to the right place! Wait until you see what we've got in store over the next couple o' months. We've got some amazing artists lending their talents to DEADPOOL — Mike Lopez, Darick Robertson and Anthony Williams are all on tap. And with covers by Art Adams, Kevin Nowlan and Steve Dillon, DEADPOOL will be looking sharp for months to come! So let your friends (and enemies) know what a great book this really is. And if they already know, tell them again ... everybody loves good news (just like everybody loves a good musical)!

Dear Deadlines,

There are many things that could be said about DEADPOOL #45, but what comes quickest to my mind is SHOCK! I was amazed at the fact that Vanessa had been pretending to be Titania the whole time! That came as a total surprise to me. I didn't see it coming at all.

I realize you must hear this all the time, but I'm really enjoying Taskmaster, Titania and Frank's roles in this book. This title is not only one of my favorites but it is also a hoot to read!

The last page says it all, though: "The best is yet to come!" With Jimmy Palmiotti on board, I, for one, am excited! I want to thank you for not settling for anything less than the best when you're picking talent for DEADPOOL. With creators like Kelly, Priest and Palmiotti on board it's no wonder DEADPOOL has such a cult following.

I'm looking forward to this new chapter of DEADPOOL and trust you to take care of the merc-with-a-mouth. See ya in the funny pages!

Robert Acquarulo
New Haven, CT

We also enjoyed the re-addition of Vanessa to DEADPOOL's cast of characters. Might she be finding herself back into Deadpool's life someday? Keep reading! (And by the way, gang, if everyone keeps talking Jimmy up, he's going to get a big head! And then there'll be no working with the guy, so KNOCK IT OFF! - Mike and Mike!)

Dear Deadguys,

I just wanted to drop you guys a line and tell you how much I enjoyed DEADPOOL #46. Christopher Priest is my FAVORITE writer, and when I heard he was leaving the merc-with-a-mouth's monthly, I was worried. Deadpool survived one writer change ... but would he survive another?

I'm sorry to say that the Deadpool backup in X-MEN UNLIMITED didn't help to silence my fears any. But when I picked up #46, I LOVED IT! Jimmy Palmiotti's script had the perfect combination of humor and drama, the latter of which was missing a bit from Priest's run. I can't wait to see how "Cruel Summer" ends! And I hope the Sack comes back for more!

Paul Chadwick's art is fabulous. His cartoony style harkens back to the early days of this book, but looks much better than that old style ever did. His depiction of Wade's face is horrific, disgusting, repugnant, and just plain gross ... I LOVE IT! IT'S AWESOME! KEEP IT UP!

Extra props to Joe Jusko for that unbelievably HOT cover! Keep up the good work!

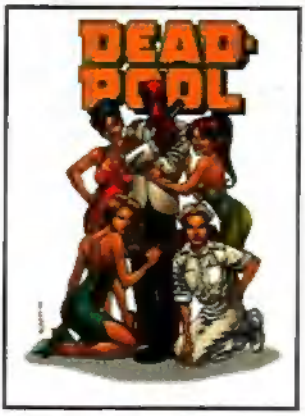
Pauly Toluba
pauly2000@hotmail.com

Tragically, Pauly, the Sack may no longer be with us ... as you could probably guess from the reaction of the disgusted (and very ill) bank manager who got a good look at what was left of the Sack in DEADPOOL #46. Or maybe he was just grossed out by all the cute monsters running loose from the Sack's sack. Either way, we loved the Sack (and the Sack's sack).

We'd also like to thank Mr. Chadwick and Mr. Randall for their wonderful artwork on the "Cruel Summer" storyline. They really helped to make the whole thing a masterpiece and deserve a lot of the credit! Joe Jusko's cover had more than a few editors drooling with ... well, envy, I guess!

Now that you've read the final chapter of "Cruel Summer" what do you think? Pretty cool, huh? Were you surprised by the ending? Wait until you see what's up next!

THE MIKES
NEXT ISSUE
Q: WHAT DO YOU DO AFTER YOU AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND HAVE A BIG FALLING OUT?
A: FIRST YOU SULK ... THEN YOU GET RIGHT BACK ON THE HORSE AND START DATING AGAIN! DEADPOOL PAINTS THE TOWN RED IN THIRTY!



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